REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon entry of this Amendment, which amends claim 2, and adds new claim 19, claims 1-19 will be pending. In the Office Action, claims 6, 7, 15, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112; claims 1, 2, 5-11, and 14-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kidder et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,880,086 B2, hereinafter "Kidder"); and claims 3, 4, 12, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kidder in view of Christian et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,854,010 B1, hereinafter "Christian").

Section 112 Rejections

Applicants have amended claim 2 to recite "ASCII persistence table". Thus, proper antecedent basis is now provided for claims 6, 7, 15, and 16.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 5-11, and 14-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kidder. For this rejection, the Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to the enclosed 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 Declaration. Although Applicants assert that Kidder does not disclose or suggest every element of the claims, the enclosed Declaration establishes prior invention in the United States prior to the effective date (April 5, 2001) of Kidder. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 2, 5-11, and 14-18.

Claims 3, 4, 12, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kidder and Christian. In addition to establish any prior invention to Kidder, the enclosed Declaration establishes prior invention in the United States prior to the effective date (May 20, 2000) of Christian. Thus, prior invention has been established in the United States prior to the effective date of both Kidder and Martin. As such, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3, 4, 12, and 13.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: $|V|V|^{OS}$

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